

Submission

No 37

INQUIRY INTO TOBACCO SMOKING IN NEW SOUTH WALES

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Theme:

Summary



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The Director
Joint Select Committee on Tobacco Smoking
Legislative Council
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Sir,

RE: Inquiry into Tobacco Smoking

The Newsagents Association of NSW and ACT Ltd is an entity registered in the Industrial Court of NSW as the Peak body for some 1500 Newsagents and was incorporated in 1891.

We are presenting this brief submission on behalf of all newsagents who currently sell Tobacco, Cigarettes and related products in NSW.

Newsagents are arguably one of the largest retail channels for these products and as such forward this submission as a relevant and interested stakeholder.

Main Points

Newsagents in NSW have been selling Tobacco and related products for over 100 years and have a long standing tradition as responsible sellers.

Most Newsagencies are family owned and operated and unlike most other independent retailers must operate with very strict customer service policies because they hold contracts with Publishers and Government agencies.

Due to their contracted arrangements with Publishers, NSW State Lotteries and State Transit ticketing which demand serious compliance, newsagents are in a better position than most retailers to be responsible sellers generally.

Because of this responsible position, newsagents are very conscious of the law in relation to the selling of Tobacco related products to the public and therefore are more than willing to disseminate to the community any information and material developing from this enquiry.

Newsagents mainly sell single pack cigarettes and rarely move into carton sales therefore if there was a move to single pack sales newsagents would support such a move.



As newsagents invariably sell tobacco products at RRP they are therefore not encouraging the sale of tobacco products by way of discount pricing of either single pack or bulk carton packs. In fact, many newsagents purchase retail supplies at over the counter prices from the major supermarkets.

This statement reflects the discount pricing by major retailers and wholesalers alike - it is cheaper for newsagents to buy stock from a supermarket than it is from a tobacco wholesaler.

Newsagents would be severely effected if previous submissions/suggestions of behind or under the counter storage procedures were introduced by regulation. Newsagents require substantial space for "put-away" and storage of magazines and newspapers, this working space is required for the everyday operation of the business

Conclusion

Newsagencies are located in highly visible locations in all suburbs and shopping centers and statistics suggest that 70% of the population regularly visit a Newsagency. In an Australian Consolidated Press consumer buying behavior study (2002) 90% say newsagents are local and community focused. Most newsagents are open from 6.00am to 6.30 pm Monday to Friday, Weekends together with public holidays and Thursday night in shopping centers.

Cultural diversity is another feature of the Newsagency system with Newsagency owners from non-English speaking backgrounds purchasing businesses following the culture of the district. Customer communication is at a very high level in most newsagencies.

Newsagents believe in a smoke free environment and we strongly submit that Newsagents throughout the state of NSW are capable of significantly augmenting any media campaign by the dissemination to the public of information regarding any relevant change to the Tobacco Laws.

We are presenting a short submission here but would be pleased to work closer with policy makers.

Yours sincerely,

Gary Monks
General Manager